

and requests your support if such a request is made.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 5136 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked with the Committee on Veterans' Affairs regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER,
Chairman.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.

Hon. BOB FILNER,
*Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
House of Representatives, Cannon Office
Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill in the interest of expediting consideration. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is not waiving its jurisdiction over these matters. Should this bill or similar legislation be the subject of a House-Senate conference, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

This exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2010.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House
of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Ways and Means in matters being considered in H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

Our Committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 5136 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have valid claims to jurisdiction over the bill, I do not intend to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forego a sequential referral waives, reduces, or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, and that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest will be included in the Committee Report and as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House.

I also wish to commend you for including in H.R. 5136, a requirement that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the U.S. Trade Representative, consider the effect that other countries' trade policies have on the ability of the United States to obtain rare earth minerals. Not only are those minerals critically important for many defense applications, they are also critical for many other high-tech applications such as wind turbine and hybrid gasoline-electric automobiles—and, as a result, to U.S. manufacturing competitiveness.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

SANDER M. LEVIN,
Chairman.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.

Hon. SANDER M. LEVIN,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Longworth Office
Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Ways and Means has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill in the interest of expediting consideration. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Ways and Means is not waiving its jurisdiction over these matters. Should this bill or similar legislation be the subject of a House-Senate conference, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Ways and Means.

This exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

MR. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 10, I was not present in order to attend my son's high school graduation ceremony. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 353, final passage of the FHA Reform Act of 2010, and "yes" on rollcall 354, passage of amendments to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to authorize advances from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

MS. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was not present during rollcall vote Nos. 347–354 on June 10th. I would have voted as follows: On rollcall vote No. 347 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 348 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 349 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 350 I would have voted "no"; on rollcall vote No. 351 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 352 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 353 I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 354 I would have voted "yes."

HONORING MS. ELLA COHEN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Ella Cohen and Rye Neck High School for her winning the Stephen J. Wemiel Best Oralist Award 2010 in the "We The Students" National High School Moot Court Competition in March.

This competition brings high school students from around the world together to compete and showcase their oral advocacy skills. Students are tested on their understanding of cutting edge legal questions and the applicability of current legal issues to the high school setting. Crucial to this competition is the understanding of the Constitution and our complex judiciary system. Ella demonstrated sharp legal reasoning, addressing difficult questions about the first amendment.

Ella's award as "Best Respondent" in this competition is a testament to the quality education she has received at Rye Neck High school and her commitment to her studies.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ella and recognizing the teachers, the administrators and her family who have contributed to her academic success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WALTER HESSLING

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

MR. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Walter Hessling who passed away on November 27, 2009.

Walter was one of many courageous men who chose to serve his community as a firefighter. He was a Captain of the Dix Hills Volunteer Fire Department and served his community valiantly for 32 years.

To all of those who knew and loved him, his untimely death will forever be a reminder of his selflessness. His last heroic moment in the line of duty saved the lives of others who he never met. As time passes, the pain will fade, but the memory of Walter will always remain a shining example of truth and goodness to all of those whose lives he touched.

It is at this time we remember Walter Hessling for his bravery and kindness and for his dedication and service to the Dix Hills Fire Department.

IN MEMORY OF ZIA RAHMAN, BELOVED LEADER AND INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE ADVOCATE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

MR. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Zia Rahman of Voorhees, who passed away on June 1st, 2010 at the age of 65. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Zahida, two